

Basic Training Welcome Letter

Alpha Battery, 1-31st Field Artillery

14 May 2014 – 18 July 2014, **CLASS 51-14**



FROM THE COMMANDER:

Greetings. I am Captain Judd L. Crawford, the Battery Commander of your Soldier's Initial Entry Training into the United States Army. Your Soldier arrived safely at the Battery and has already begun Basic Combat Training (BCT).

Over the next few months your Soldier will learn the basic skills that are required to survive and win on today's battlefield. The training will be strenuous and demanding, but the tasks performed will help each Soldier develop the discipline and self-confidence necessary to be a successful Soldier in today's Army.

I want you to know that the Cadre training your Soldier are a very



dedicated group of professionals who are genuinely concerned

about the health, welfare and training of each Soldier. We consider your Warrior to be the Army's most important asset and I will personally ensure that we will make your Soldier's experience challenging yet rewarding.

COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR SOLDIER

By now you should have already received a phone call from your Soldier. All Soldiers are given the opportunity to call home within the first 72 hours upon arrival **BUT NOT** again until **around** the fourth week of training. This is also contingent upon that they meet all of their training requirements and do not have any issues with misconduct.

I ask that you not attempt to contact your Soldier by phone. If there is anything you should be concerned with regarding the health and welfare of your Soldier, the 1SG and/or I

will personally let you know.

LETTERS/ PACKAGES



Whether or not this is your Soldier's first time away from home, I am sure that your Soldier will miss you a great deal as you presumably will miss your Soldier, too. I strongly encourage you to write at every opportunity; you can be assured that your Soldier will have ample time to write you as well. When writing your Soldier use the following address:

**Rank Last Name, First Name, MI
__Platoon, Alpha Battery, 1-31st FA
5955 NE Rothwell Street
Fort Sill, OK 73503**

Packages are authorized but strongly discouraged. Your Soldier is being allowed to get everything he/she needs here at the local Post Exchange (Shopping Store). Please observe the following guidelines when sending mail:

- ✓ No alcohol or products containing alcohol, tobacco or narcotics
- ✓ No weapons
- ✓ No radios, TV's, cell phones, cameras, or other electronic devices
- ✓ No pornographic or morally questionable materials
- ✓ No magazines
- ✓ **No food items**

DRILL SERGEANTS

Relax, your Soldier is not reliving those first 30 minutes of *Full Metal Jacket*. Today's Soldiers are treated fairly, firmly, and with dignity and respect. **Abuse, Hazing, Discrimination and Sexual Harassment of any kind by ANY Drill Sergeant is not tolerated.** Drill Sergeants are selected from among the best Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) in the Army, and

are highly qualified to train recruits.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES

Should an emergency arise, the best means of notifying your Soldier is through your local **American Red Cross**. The field office in your area will contact the Lawton, Oklahoma field office who will, in turn, contact me. In extreme cases, such as serious injury or death, affecting immediate family members, an emergency leave of absence may be granted. Other leaves of absence during training are not normally authorized.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SOLDIER IS INJURED DURING TRAINING?

Should any injury occur, your Soldier will receive appropriate medical attention from Ft. Sill's large, professional medical staff at state-of-the-art medical facilities at Reynolds Army Community Hospital. Additionally, Drill Sergeants are Combat Lifesaver qualified and carry medical aid kits in all aspects of training. Depending on the nature

and extent of the injury there may be some delay in graduating.

FAMILY DAY / GRADUATION

We will conduct a Family Day presentation, demonstrating the key events that occur during basic combat training. The presentation will begin at 9:00am on 17July14 at Sheridan Theatre. After the ceremony, your Soldier will be released on pass to you, but will have to return for accountability at exactly 8:00pm that evening. The next day 18July14, your Soldier will graduate (in Sheridan Theatre) at 10:00am. More information about both events will be released as the dates draw closer so you can make appropriate travel plans. Utilize the following Lawton, Oklahoma Chamber-of-Commerce website which lists all of the various hotels and motels in the area for your convenience. Attached is a smap of 1) Sheridan Theatre 2) The dropoff point where you take your Soldier to after the pass is concluded at 8:00pm on 17July14; and 3) The Alpha Battery Area (for your information)

***PLEASE REFER TO THIS SITE AS I WILL UPDATE AS
MUCH PERTINENT INFORMATION AS I CAN!!
PICTURES OF YOUR SOLDIERS IN TRAINING WILL
ALSO BE DISPLAYED:***

Alpha Battery 1-31st BN on FACEBOOK Page
<https://www.facebook.com/#!/alpha131fa>

LODGING INFORMATION FOR THE AREA:
(Per the Lawton Chamber of Commerce)
<http://www.lawtonfortsillchamber.com>

PHONE NUMBERS

Alpha Battery, 1-31st Battalion
(580) 442-4512

Battery First Sergeant
First Sergeant James Richardson
(580) 442-5417

Battery Commander
Captain Judd Crawford
(580) 442-2169